

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4740

To require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a national research program to address the animal disease known as chronic wasting disease, which is afflicting wild deer and elk herds in many States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2002

Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. TERRY, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. OBEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. KILDEE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a national research program to address the animal disease known as chronic wasting disease, which is afflicting wild deer and elk herds in many States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Chronic Wasting Dis-
5 ease Research and Response Act of 2002”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR PROGRAM TO AD-**
2 **DRESS CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary
4 of the Interior shall establish and coordinate a national
5 research program to assess chronic wasting disease.

6 (b) ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM.—Under the program,
7 the Secretary shall—

8 (1) develop a long-term program to provide
9 States with technical and financial assistance and
10 timely information to prevent the expansion of
11 chronic wasting disease;

12 (2) design a national program for the moni-
13 toring and surveillance of chronic wasting disease in
14 wild deer and elk and other wildlife populations and
15 assess whether chronic wasting disease is present in
16 free-ranging populations of cervids adjacent to the
17 endemic area and in new areas of infestation;

18 (3) conduct research to determine how chronic
19 wasting disease is transmitted in wild deer and elk
20 and the extent of the risk of transmission of the dis-
21 ease;

22 (4) evaluate ecological and environmental fac-
23 tors responsible for the emergence, growth, repro-
24 duction, and persistence of chronic wasting disease
25 in the environment;

1 (5) develop and provide modeling and analytical
2 strategies to identify, track, and manage the spread
3 of chronic wasting disease;

4 (6) investigate and develop new non-lethal de-
5 tection and diagnostic methods and techniques to
6 identify chronic wasting disease in free-ranging
7 cervid populations;

8 (7) investigate and develop safe methods of dis-
9 posal for carcasses that are or may be infected with
10 chronic wasting disease;

11 (8) instruct Federal land managers in areas in
12 proximity to chronic wasting disease endemic areas
13 or areas of new infestation outside of endemic areas
14 to conduct comprehensive assessments of free-rang-
15 ing cervid populations to determine the presence of
16 chronic wasting disease, the likelihood of trans-
17 mission to adjacent non-Federal lands, and manage-
18 ment options for chronic wasting disease infesta-
19 tions; and

20 (9) develop a public outreach and education
21 strategy for the hunting community and general
22 public to inform them about the origin, spread, and
23 risks associated with chronic wasting disease.

24 (c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall establish
25 and conduct the program in consultation with the States,

1 other Federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations,
2 and colleges and universities.

3 (d) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Within 180 days
4 after the date of the date of the enactment of this Act,
5 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Resources
6 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
7 Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report de-
8 scribing the progress made in implementing this section.

9 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) The term “chronic wasting disease” means
11 the transmissible animal disease that afflicts deer
12 and elk and belongs to the group of diseases known
13 as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.

14 (2) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
15 of the Interior, acting through the Director of the
16 United States Geological Survey.

17 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
18 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such
19 sums as are necessary to carry out the program. Amounts
20 so appropriated shall remain available until expended.

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